



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROBATION COMMISSION
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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF JUNE 22, 2017

The regular meeting of the County of Los Angeles Probation Commission was held on Thursday, June 22, 2017 at the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, First Floor, Room 140A, Los Angeles, California 90012

I. Commission President Joe Gardner welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 10:05 A. M. He informed the Commissioners and all present that the meeting was being recorded. He asked that all identify themselves prior to making any statements.

The following Commissioners were present:

1st Vice President Jan Levine
2nd Vice President Seaver
Commissioner Butler
Commissioner Lowenthal
Commissioner Mitchell
Commissioner Saab
Commissioner Martinez
Commissioner Yamashiro
Commissioner Meredith

The following Commissioners were not present:

Commissioner Kaplan
Commissioner Shutan
Commissioner Richardson
Commissioner Caster
Commissioner Hoover

Commissioners

Joe Gardner-President,
Hon. Jan Levine (Ret.)-1st Vice President, Daniel Seaver – 2nd Vice President,
Donald Meredith-Sergeant at Arms, Azael Martinez-Sonoqui, Cyn Yamashiro, Esq.,
Jacqueline Caster, Esq, Jo Kaplan Esq, Olivia E. Mitchell, Peter Shutan,
Zachary Hoover, Hon. Betsy Butler (Ret.), Hon. Bonnie Lowenthal (Ret.), Hon. Rex Richardson, Hon. Alex Saab, Esq.

The following staff were present:

Sheila Mitchell, Asst. Chief Probation Officer
Dave Mitchell, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer
Jesus Corral, Sr. Director
Rahman Williams, Supervising Program Analyst
Carrie Clark, County Counsel
Andrew Hurley, County Counsel
Patricia Rodriguez
Monica Garcia

The following individuals were present:

Natasha Khamashta
Maureen Pacheco
Denise Miranda
Maritza Uribe

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No action taken.

III. LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell reported on the draft Camp Closure plan. The proposal is being circulated with approval from the Board of Supervisors to vet with stakeholders. This is not a finalized document. The Camp Consolidation Project comes on the heels of lots of hard work on the part of the Probation Department and the community to reduce the number of juveniles in custody in LA County. This is a success for all those concerned. She referred to a trend chart that shows the decline of youth in custody:

From	2012-2013	983 minors in custody at 13 facilities
to	2016-2017	482 minors in custody in 10 facilities
to	2017-2018	350 minors in custody in 6 facilities
to	2018-2019	300 minors in custody in 5 facilities (projected)

The Department is projecting that these numbers will continue to reduce as tools such as structured decision making and assessments are implemented. This is a time of celebration for all, although any time facilities are closed, we understand that closing facilities impact employees and families. Leadership is proposing the consolidation plan using the following factors: 1) Where youth live. This is important because the Department will focus much effort on re-entry & family support; 2) Where staff live; and 3) Ongoing and deferred maintenance status.

The other factor that informed the development of the plan was the opening of Campus Kilpatrick and the LA Model. The grand opening celebration will be June 30, 2017. The goal is that the trauma-informed treatment and services offered will be received by youth in a normative environment. The proposal's goal is that over the next two years, the 6 camps and Kirby will be able to house the youth population in custody.

Department leadership commits to review the need and adjust as needed over time. Chief Mitchell described the timeline below:

Tentative Date	Camp Population Impact	Camp Closure
July 3, 2017	Campus Kilpatrick (120-bed facility; will open with 24 youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Smith (CMYC)
January 30, 2018	Campus Kilpatrick (expand to 48 youth; convert permanently to co-ed)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Gonzales • Camp Scott (female camp) temporary closure for renovation
October 1, 2018	Campus Kilpatrick (expand to 96 youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp Scobee (CMYC) • Camp Jarvis (CMYC)
April 1, 2019	Re-open Camps Scudder and Scott for boys (expand Campus Kilpatrick to 120 youth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camp McNair (CMYC) • Camp Onizuka(CMYC)

Thus, in addition to the Dorothy Kirby Center, the following facilities would remain: Campus Kilpatrick, Camp Afflerbaugh, Camp Paige, Camp Rockey, Camp Scott, Camp Scudder.

Again, this plan is not approved in final. The Department leaders are meeting with stakeholders. The Probation management team will share the proposed plan with the line staff. The plan has been shared with unions, many community based organization, and partner agencies. Closures will allow investments into facilities that will utilize some aspects of the LA Model for small and homelike environments.

With respect to girls in custody being served at Campus Kilpatrick, Dr. Angie Wolf is assessing all the girls in Scott & Kirby over the next 30 days. The purpose is to assess if a youth is high needs and high risk to public safety then camp/placement is appropriate. If, however a girl is high needs and not nigh risk, then that will require further action.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell said the goal was to have a place where the LA Model will be available in all facilitates. The Department wants to offer services that are most effective with highest needs kids and that includes, cognitive behavior therapy, trauma-informed care, education, mental health, vocational training and with a smaller footprint, he is optimistic that the services will be more effective overall.

Commissioner Levine wondered if the programming offered at each camp was reviewed before the plan is proposed. She was concerned that if a high functioning camp is closed, then services to youth may be compromised. Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell reminded that the Department does not expect to reduce services however the LA Model relies on staff and the therapeutic model in a more intensive way. The Department is very appreciative of all partners. There is an expectation that just as staff has had to move, so will providers.

Commissioner Levine wondered if the transfer of program at Gonzales would result in offering quality program to fewer kids. Assistant Chief Mitchell suggested that the expansion of Campus Kilpatrick will preserve and improve services for youth and will require staff and nonprofits to work together. She informed all that Campus Kilpatrick and Gonzales are 6 miles apart. Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell suggested that as Kilpatrick expands, it would be able to absorb Gonzales population. Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell restated that the goal is for all youth to have high level of services regardless of which facility they are sent to.

Commissioner Levine inquired for more detail on the assessment being conducted by Dr. Wolf. Assistant Chief Mitchell informed that she will be using a new assessment that the department is planning on incorporating. She shared that the Dr. Herz report stated that 84% of the girls had been involved with the Department of Children and Family Services(DCFS) at one time. She also expressed great interest in connecting experiences of trauma with treatment. Many girls come with exposure to trauma and various mental health diagnosis. The results of the analysis will be shared with the Commission once completed.

Commissioner Levine expressed concern that through the development of the LA Model and Kilpatrick plan, the discussion of serving boys and girls was not part of the development of the plan and neither was the desire to serve youth who were formally sexually exploited. She would like to see greater public discussion and more transparent planning.

Commissioner Levine expressed concern that the Commission was not informed earlier in the process to discuss camp closure proposal and that the Commission is not seen as a place to seek input. As a Commission charged with oversight of facilities, Commissioner Levine expressed a desire to be part of the process in future.

Assistant Chief Mitchell reminded the Commission that in 2013, she served as a consultant for the LA Model and Campus Kilpatrick. She reminded all that the discussion of the facility being co-ed has been one of the potentials discussed from the beginning. In terms of the Proposal on Camp Closure, the plan needed to go to the Board of Supervisors before being shared with stakeholders. There was no intention to disrespect the Commission. The point of desire for notice to the Commission is understood.

Commissioner Yamashiro emphasized the need for high level placements for children who need highly personalized care. He encouraged the Department to find ways to use the closed facilities as places where care can be offered to youth in new ways through partnership with mental health and others. He asked for any plans for the facilities once vacant. Assistant Chief Sheila Mitchell spoke about the desire to find ways to explore participation with the Fire Camp at Paige. The discussion is about looking at camp and other vehicles to help prepare for jobs and placement at jobs. The focus on job readiness and job engagement is raising the possibility of a non-custodial program to provide for the environment for greater support.

Commissioner Yamashiro reminds all that there are closed placement of therapeutic environments and encouraged the Department to engage with providers and explore possible relationships that can provide the bed space needed for youth.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell added that there is work being done with the congregate care act which requires all the providers to function at a level 14 facility, housing higher need kids. The requirement to insist that every group home provide services at a level 14 of facilities will address some of this need.

Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell confirmed that Camp Resnick is one of the closed camps at Challenger. President Gardner confirmed that Challenger Youth Memorial Center would completely close if the plan is approved and that Camp Mendenhall and Camp Munz is closed for now and there are no plans to open any time soon.

President Gardner stressed that there is a need to keep looking for opportunities to better serve youth with mental illness in a non-custodial setting as facilities are re-purposed.

Maureen Pacheco from the Alternate Defender's Office commented on the increase of fitness hearings with Prop 57 on charges that do not rise to the level of DJJ. She encourages review of the following data points on: 1) juvenile hall increases in numbers of youth 2) juvenile hall increases in time of stay 3) use of out of state placements.

Commissioner Seaver expressed concern about the expansion of Campus Kilpatrick and its use as a co-ed facility. Chief Mitchell expects that outcome measures aligned with national standards will be able to accommodate changes. Commissioner Seaver expressed concern about closing Gonzales and Scott and impacts to the overall success of the LA Model. He also urged action to deal with Central Juvenile Hall. Assistant Chief Mitchell shared that she is not aware of plans to sell or demolish Central Juvenile Hall. She is aware of discussions that are considering short term and long term possible corrections for Central. She agreed to brief the Commission when appropriate.

Commissioner Levine encouraged that all research associated with the LA Model and Kilpatrick be desegregated by gender. The discussion continued to encourage thoughtful planning and services for girls impacted by Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children(CSEC). Chief Mitchell appreciated the discussion and concern. She appreciated that while the goal is to offer rehabilitation centers, they are still levels of incarceration.

Acting Chief Mitchell introduced the follow up presentation to services focusing on high school graduates. He reminded all that as consolidation of the camps allows for the consolidation of the high school graduate population to be more intentional with programming. Through work with LA County Office of Education, the population of graduates has diminished and there is a greater attention to AB 216 opportunity as youth exist instead of when they begin camp. One possibility being explored is hiring youth with diplomas as teacher's assistants.

Senior Director Jesus Corral, Dr. Denise Miranda for LA Unified, Maritza Uribe for Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services and Mr. Rahman Williams,

Supervising Program Analyst for Probation were introduced as the presenters. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell reminded all that the goal was to support youth so they can return to the community in Aftercare/Re-entry successfully.

Mr. Corral provided an overview of the education services division. He informed that Mr. Williams supervises the direct support and program to camps. Ms. McFarlane-Sosa oversees large projects such as the Academic Bowl and the graduation. Mr. Corral was pleased to report the college course programs continues to expand in all residential centers. Spring semester had over 120 students participate in classes offered by East Los Angeles College and Mission College in online courses and instructor led courses. Instructor led courses will be expanded to Central Juvenile Hall next fall.

Students participate in courses that meet general education requirements such as health, history, sociology, health that are transferable to the Cal State and University of California systems. The goal is to expose the students to a college experience that will motivate them to continue their path. Our program has provided campus visits to Mission college where youth picked identification cards.

By way of employment, Education Services Unit works closely with Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services within our camps so youth can earn a paycheck by working at camp. Mr. Corral explained that graduates are given priority in employment opportunities. Ms. Uribe celebrated the partnership with Probation, City of LA, and LA Unified. Their goal is to help youth understand that education and employment are necessary strengths in their future. The desire is to use the time in camp to connect to services and build new habits. Enrolling youth to offer deeper programming such as career pathway exploration prior to release through Personal Enrichment Training (PET).

Mr. Williams shared that ongoing education and civic education have been successful efforts. Staff engaged the Registrar to use a train -the-trainer model. These workshops are provided at all camps and halls. 450 youth have been registered to vote. 40 youth were eligible to vote in November election and 13 in the March municipal election. In terms of selected service registration, 103 18-year-old individuals have been registered. For many interested in college classes, by registering they can qualify for financial aid. Youth have access to technology programs that have regular assessments for Lexile levels. The County library system has also partnered with camps and halls and started book clubs with youth. Mr. Corral added that at Los Padrinos, a library branch was opened in partnership at that site.

Mr. Corral identified the core partners for Education Services: LA Unified, LA County Office of Education, LA Community College District, Public Library, Registrar Recorder, Workforce Development, Aging and Community Services. UCLA is offering a college course at Sylmar for adult charged youth. Mr. Williams shared that 7 high school graduates completed a UCLA course and earned 2 college units. USC will begin to offer a course at Kirby.

Commissioner Mitchell confirmed that LA Trade Tech continues to be a partner for education services unit. He has met with Chancellor Rodriguez who has expressed great support for the partnership of all campuses.

Lastly, the consolidation of camps does offer an alternative for youth so that all high school graduates could be in one camp and the program can be tailored to their needs.

Commissioner Seaver saluted the program to bring college classes to camps and encouraged that support be offered so that more youth can be successful in that class given the level of academic skills. He encourages the collection of data to inform of success in the program.

Commissioner Levine expressed great concern about the low literacy levels of youth she has come across in the halls and asked if programs were in place for support or assess skills in literacy. Mr. Corral agreed that there was an opportunity to work with LA County Office of Education to increase services and support. He informed that LA County Office of Education was primarily responsible for the assessment of academic skills however his team did work with each facility to provide books, book clubs and access to libraries to encourage reading. In addition, technology bases strategies such as Achieve 3000 also supported development of literacy skills through scaffolding of material based on individual reading level. Commission Levine was interested in understanding the LA County Office of Education process of assessing reading levels. She would like to see urgency with respect to identifying gaps in skills and supporting growth.

Commissioner Mitchell praised the work of the young people at the Academic Bowl which this year was focused on climate change. She appreciated the enthusiasm and creativity displayed by youth. She recognized the need to find ways to engage students and tap into their interests to keep them in the community. Her concern was that while the event was very well done, she wondered why so many armed deputies were present. Acting Deputy Chief Mitchell noted the concern and discussed the need to balance safety and security and normalizing events. He committed to review practice and adjust where necessary. Mr. Corral expressed appreciation for those who attended the Academic Bowl and noted the strong partnership with LA County of Office of Education. He also shared that the Department seeks to provide regular experiences to support learning for all youth.

Commissioner Butler shared that in her visit to Sylmar the girls she spoke to wanted more opportunity to learn, to use computers, to apply their learning. She recalled one child that was very motivated from participating in a recital. Commissioner Butler urged counselors to be aware of opportunities and extend those to the students, particularly those programs, internships, classes that would assist in securing employment. She also urged for opportunities to be available at all facilities with attention to youth in halls.

President Gardner thanked all for the presentation and the work.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Levine asked Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell to provide an update on the effort to **train the staff in the specialized units** in the halls in Dialectical Behavioral

Therapy or any trauma-informed training. Acting Deputy Chief Dave Mitchell said they did receive 8 hours of trauma-informed training and there is a strong interest in expanding the training. Leadership is exploring how units can be temporarily closed for a week or so to have a full staff training to include agency partners including, Dept. of Mental Health, LA County Office of Education and Juvenile Court Health Services. Commissioner Levine thanked Chief Mitchell and asked to be updated as the plan is developed.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Item was tabled.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kilpatrick Grand Opening ceremony will be on June, 30, 2017
- California Probation, Parole, & Correctional Association 86th Annual Training Conference, 9-12-17, Queen Mary, Long Beach
- Reminder to email activities for Recap Submissions. President Gardner shared that that this update will be provided quarterly moving forward.
- President Gardner informed all that the next Probation Commission meeting on July 13, 2017 will be held on the 7th Floor, Room 743 of the Hall of Administration.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioners Levine moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Butler seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.